

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 IO-03 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:RELTZ:MNH

APPROVED BY S/S -O:RELTZ

S/S:WLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076139

TOSEC 4

FOL REPEAT TEL AVIV 2209 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN

BEIRUT CAIRO JERUSALEM GENEVA APR 15

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2209

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV 2179

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. AGAINST BACKDROP OF SYRIAN ESCALATION ON GOLAN, SC MEETING ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI PROBLEMS, AND REPORTED NEXT VISIT OF THE SECRETARY, ISRAEL OVER WEEKEND WRESTLED WITH CRITICAL INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISIS. HOW IT WILL BE RESOLVED STILL UP IN AIR, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENTS INCREASINGLY POINT TOWARD NEW ELECTION IN LATE OCTOBER.

2. IN MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT KATZIR APRIL 14, ALIGNMENT

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DELEGATION REQUESTED ADDITIONAL TIME--TEN TO FOURTEEN DAYS--

TO DECIDE ON ITS POSITION IN FORMATION OF GOVT, WHILE LIKUD DELEGATION URGED PRESIDENT TO ASK MENAHEM BEGIN TO FORM NATIONAL UNITY GOVT. NRP LEADERS APRIL 15 URGED NATIONAL EMERGENCY GOVT, WITH LIKUD.

3. FINMIN SAPIR RESPONDING TO SPECIAL PLEA OF EXMAPAI GROUP APRIL 14 TO HEAD NEW GOVT, REITERATED HIS STAND NOT TO SEEK PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND STATED THAT NEW ELECTIONS SEEM UNAVOIDABLE. HE BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE HELD IN LATE OCTOBER-- AFTER AGRANAT COMMISSION REPORT IS COMPLETED AND NEW VOTERS ADDED TO ELECTRAL ROLLS.

4. LABOR PARTY KNESSET REPRESENTATIVE AND LABOR PARTY BUREAU MEMBERS SCHEDULED TO MEET APRIL 16 TO HAMMER OUT PARTY POSITION. AMONG RANGE OF OPTIONS ARE (A) CONTINUE PRESENT CARETAKER GOVT IF MRS MEIR AGREES, WITH POSSIBLE SHIFT IN CABINET MINISTERS, AND HOLD NEW ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER; (B) FORM NEW INTERIM GOVT ON BASIS PRESENT OR NEW COALITION, WITH ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER; (C) FORM

NEW PERMANENT GOVT. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, FORMIN EBAN WOULD NOT HAZARD A GUESS AS TO FINAL OUTCOME.

5. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ANTICIPATE OPTION LABOR PARTY MAY TAKE, VIEWS OF FINMIN SAPIR AND OTHER LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MRS MEIR, AS WELL AS PRESS AND PUBLIC, INDICATE PROBABILITY OF OCTOBER ELECTION, WITH CARETAKER OR NEW INTERIM GOVT IN POWER UNTIL ELECTION. SPLIT IN ALIGNMENT IS WORRISOM FACTOR IN CHOOSING OPTIONS AS WELL AS CANDIDATE TO HEAD NEW GOVT. RABIN, ALMOGI, AND ZADOK ARE STILL CONSIDER TOP CONTENDERS, WITH LATTER TWO APPEARING TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL FACTIONS.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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